

NEW JERSEY EXONUMIA SOCIETY

JAN. FEB. MAR. 2010
ISSUE # 136

"JERSEYANA"



**Personal token of N.J.E.S. Vice President
Steve Middleton who lost his battle with cancer.**

Remembrances of our friend Steve

Although I don't recall what year Steve Middleton and I first met, I do know we had a mutual interest in numismatics, particularly exonomia, for a long time. Perhaps we were introduced during one of the unforgettable GSNA conventions of the 1990's , when there existed a separate token & medal show on site, and I was a more-active collector and exhibitor of Edisonia.

Steve was a dealer of tokens and medals, among other things, and I began to visit Steve's table at various local New Jersey shows. He helped my Thomas Edison medal collection grow and kept my exonomia want list. Although I still hunt for T Edison memorabilia, family and job demands have pushed my searches to the bottom of the priority list. Steve always took the time to chat with his fellow collectors, who usually became his friends for life! We discussed both his and my own growing family, whom he got to know as I brought my children and their cousins and friends to coin shows. This was during those early years of the NJES and GSNA.

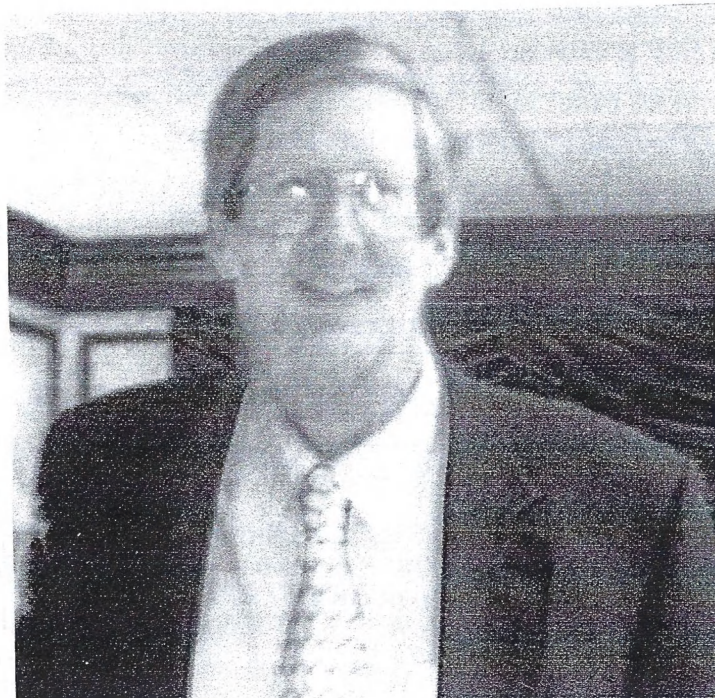
My friend Steve and my family became better-acquainted during the 10 year period I served as New Jersey Exonomia Society president, from about 1995 to 2005. The NJES officers' meeting convened on several occasions at my home in Hopewell Township, NJ. During that period Steve, Al Zaika, Gary Patterson and my wife Esther served NJES in various capacities. At that time Steve agreed to handle membership duties and held the position of vice-president. We had several membership meetings during that time, but the turnouts were not as strong as we had hoped. Some things never change!

Mr Steve Middleton grew up in South Orange, NJ, next to neighboring West Orange, where Thomas Edison had his research, recording and manufacturing complex. A couple of years ago Steve and his dear wife Carol took me on a tour of Steve's old neighborhood, where his mother still resides. Steve recalled that there were several Edison-designed portland cement homes that he wanted to show me. Edison had developed his own type of cement and then invented a system of forms to cast the buildings. I viewed and photographed some of those homes still standing in South Orange. The same Edison portland cement was used to build the original Yankee Stadium in 1923! We had lunch together that afternoon and that day remains a highlight among my many Thomas Edison collecting experiences. Steve Middleton will never be forgotten!

George Skic

NJES LM #32

GSNA HLM #10



April 5, 1952 – Dec. 10, 2009

Steve taught chemistry and physics at Orange H.S. and Mount Olive. He is survived by his wife Carole, mother Mary and son Dwayne. Members of N.J.E.S. who knew and worked with him will remember a "Giant" in our hobby.

"Last saw Steve at the G.S.N.A. show in May and knew then that he was struggling. In September he sent me some items from his collection that he knew that I wanted. He was selling them because of his illness. The least I can do is to write them up for enjoyment of our members, which in due course I will do. He taught all of us through his exhibits. He always encouraged me to study and write about things numismatic and exonomia. In that sense he kept our newsletter and society going. It's tough. Let his memory inspire us". David Gladfelter

"I've never met an individual that had more dedication than Steve. Steve was one of a kind". Jim Majoros.

"Just really a nice guy to have as a friend. Very sad when we heard the news." Pete & Gary

Donations to the ANA Summer Seminar in Steve's name can be sent to the ANA Summer Seminar Scholarship Fund at ANA 818 North Cascade Ave. Colorado Springs, CO. 80903-3279

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TRADE, BUY OR SELL. SEND TO THE EDITOR OR EMAIL THEM.

MEMBERSHIP

DUES ARE \$8.00 PER YEAR & RUNS FROM JAN. TO JAN. (4-ISSUES) - JUNIOR (UNDER 18)
\$5 WILL RECEIVE THEIR OWN "JERSEYANA".



NINE WEST is a worldwide women's fashion chain store (Denim, Handbags, Shoes, etc.).
It is a subdivision of Jones Apparel Group. The warehouse distribution of all stores in the
U.S. is located in West Deptford, N.J. Whitmetal, Holed, 34mm

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

It is about time for the "message." The big news for NJES is that there were several response to Gary's proposal that we try to expand to other northeastern states. The responses in general were favorable and the general "sense of the meeting" was that we would discuss this in detail during our May meeting at the GSNA convention. We would have to change the name of the organization, the newsletter and the logo. Also, we should meet at least every other year at a different venue, not tied to the GSNA (who have been our generous hosts over the years).

You folks who are also members of the ANA and have received the November issue of "the Numismatist," know that we have a real treat in this issue: "Numismatic Shards of New Jersey's First Industry" by Todd R. Sciore. This concerns South Jersey's glass industry and associated exnumia. Being from North Jersey I would contend that iron came first ! But, anyway, this is an article well researched and written and beautifully illustrated. Anyone interested in New Jersey exnumia and/or South Jersey history should read this. Congratulations, Todd! Another publication that may interest folks who have a New Jersey focus is "Mapping New Jersey," an atlas published by Rutgers University Press and co-edited by Maxine Lurie (co-editor of "Encyclopedia of New Jersey) and myself. The cartography (maps) is by Michael Siegel a colleague at Rutgers. (The cheapest price is at Amazon for \$26 and change but don't tell the press I told you this.)

The only other news that I can think of is that I finally got to see my grandson's scorpion belt buckle and it is awesome. I myself might have bought it instead of a hacienda token. Of course, my wife insists that I, basically, am, as is my grandson, only nine years old. I also got to see his father's medal conferred by Philadelphia University. It is bronze, large, has the seal of the school and his name engraved. It is (to me) pretty impressive. He has to wear it at convocations, etc.

Best wishes to all, Pete



WILLIAM SHAMP, Trenton, N.J.

I saw this token on E-bay and decided to try and find out the type of business William Shamp was in when he ordered the token. I couldn't get a clear scan of the token due to the dark color so I made a drawing.

In my research, I discovered Mr. Shamp was from Larora, Ill. and was visiting friends in Trenton in Oct. 1907. Two years later in 1909, he was found living in Trenton married to Miss Florence Egan of 727 Princeton Ave. (same address on the token) and living in her house. Finally I found him in 1913 applying for a license to have one pool table in his house.

I remember spending summers with my grandmother in a small town in Pa. and we would go to a man's house who had one pool table and played for 5¢ a game (he had no tokens). gp



POOL

Rose & Swanson, 31 Barnes St.; two tables.
Frank Alitmond, 110 Factory St.; two tables.
George A. Miller, 13 Lexington St.; 1 table.
William D. Shamp, 727 Princeton Ave.; 1 table.
Joseph Vinch, 1268 Princeton Ave.; 1 table.
Mayer M. Robinson, 125 S. Feeder St.; 1 table.
Peter F. Daly, 14 Perry St.; 1 table.
Mrs. Ellen Sandler, 89 Klags Ave.; 1 table.
Nathan Saas, 886 S. Broad St.; 1 bowling alley.
William H. Hopkins, 917 and 919 S. Broad St.; 2 tables.
Jacob Vine, 140 Washington St.; transfer from Daniel Bentivogli; 1 table.
Michael Marchesano, 146 S. Broad St.; 1 extra table.
Joseph Epstein, 22 Mulberry St.; 1 table, new.
John Zuchatti, 11 Emory Ave.; 1 ta-

With casino chips slowly being replaced with paper, are amusement tokens next ? If so both areas will see a decline in interest by collectors. Bob Schopp sent in these two rechargeable amusement playcards used at the Casino Pier and Jenkinson's.

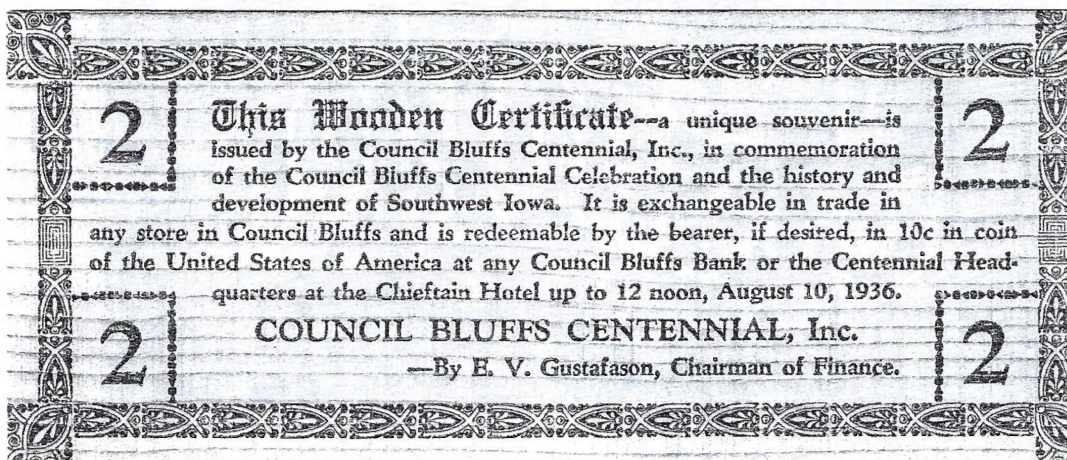
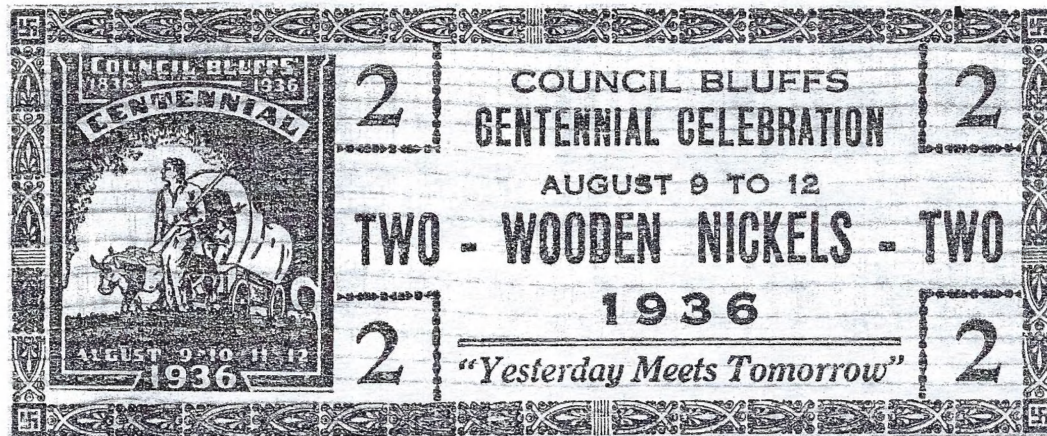
This may not be a bad thing for some collectors as you will have a start and an ending which could lead to a "complete collection" instead of a never ending one.



E-BAY BUYS

I won two items on E-bay for my collection although I passed on the wooden flat when it first appeared. The seller had an opening bid of \$50. (just too high for a wooden nickel). He didn't receive any bids so relisted it for \$10. which I won as the only bidder. Two weeks later it showed up again and sold for \$22. It is the only known wooden flat that has swastikas (one in each corner) on it. One Wooden Nickel was also issued.

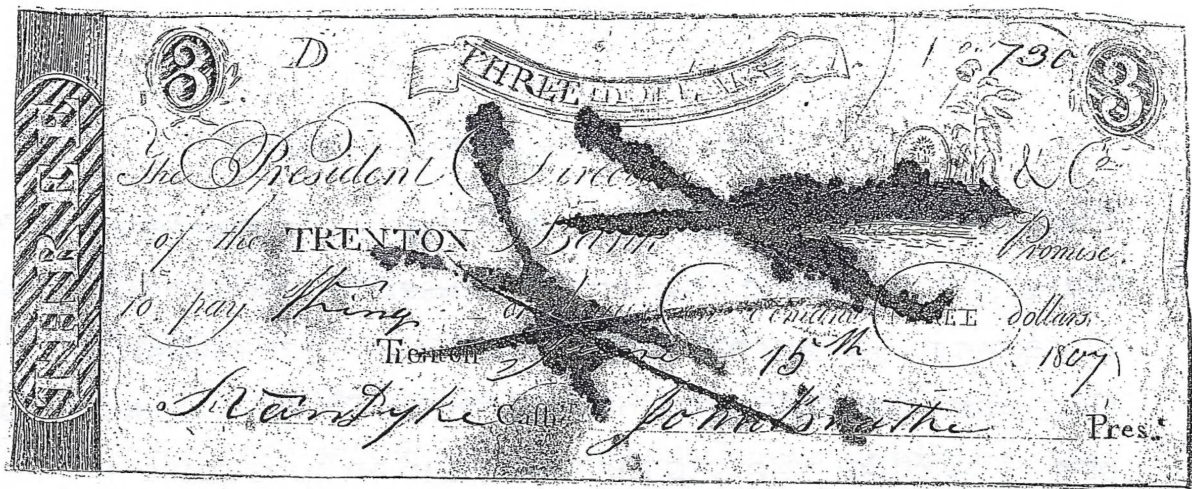
It is printed in Blue. E.V. Gustafason, Chairman of Finance on the flat is Finnish and the swastika was the official national marking of the Finland Air Force and Army between 1918 & 1945. The color Blue swastika was the personal good luck symbol of Swedish Count Eric von Rosen who gave the Finland government an airplane with it on.



The second item is a swastika token that is encased into a 1876 half dollar. I have no idea what was used to hold the token in place but it is a very hard black material. The token has the Greenduck Co., Chicago mint mark with a Right Swastika (top arm of swastika points to the right) and an apostrophe in DON'T. The bulk of swastika tokens are Left and do not have the apostrophe in DONT (DONT WORRY CLUB).

I have checked over 1,600 swastika tokens and haven't found a Greenduck Co. Right Swastika with the apostrophe in DON'T. I'm doing my best to resist the temptation to take it apart to see if it is an unlisted token. gp





An 1807 note of the nonexistent "Trenton Bank"
It's a 3.00 bill and definitely phony

Exonumia from Your Neighborhood – Mercer County

NUMISMATIC FOLK ART

David D. Gladfelter, NLG

A "counterfeit" bank note and a "spurious" one are both bogus, but the counterfeit at least has some relationship to reality in that it is a facsimile copy of a genuine note. In fact, some counterfeits of New Jersey notes from the obsolete period (1782 to 1866) are so deceptive that experts to this day are in disagreement about their status. A spurious note, on the other hand, is a fake that does not resemble a genuine bank issue. An example of a spurious note would be one printed from a plate that was modified in some way, usually to change the name of the bank.

And then you have concoctions so fanciful and crude that it's a wonder that anyone could have been deceived by them. Take the example shown above, which came from the collection of the late Ellis Edlow. "New Jersey" does not appear on this note, supposedly issued by the "Trenton Bank." No bank by that name ever existed in this state. But no other town named Trenton, including Trenton, Ontario, had banks as early as 1807. The note's denomination is in dollars, therefore it would not be on a British bank whose currency was the pound sterling. The names of the officers and the payee give no clue – "John Brathe (?)" as president, "S. Van Dyke" as cashier, and "J. King" as payee. The note is heavily canceled, partly obscuring a strange cornstalk, shield with wheat sheaf and Liberty cap vignette. Both the note and the bank are unlisted in the Haxby and Wait references.

My best guess is that this note was intended to pass for those of the Trenton Banking Co., the second bank to be chartered in New Jersey, on December 3, 1804. If you give the counterfeiter a large measure of artistic license, it could be viewed as a rough imitation of this bank's genuine 3.00 bill of this period (see illustration elsewhere). Call it folk art if you will.

References

The Trenton Banking Company: A History of the First Century of its Existence. Trenton, MacCrellish & Quigley, 1907. Illustration of the genuine bill is taken from this book.

CLUB NEWS

"Mapping New Jersey" is now available at Amazon.com (see Pete's President's Message).

Dues: Please check your mailing label – if 09 it is time to renew your membership for 2010. We hope you will support the club and used your Free Ad's. We also need your help in writing up articles for the Jerseyana.

Anyone interested in taking over the Vice-Pres. job please let Pete know.

I finished my catalog on the Storecards of The Whitehead & Hoag Co., Newark, N.J. - Photo's & Listings of all known Tokens, Medals, Tags & Watch Fobs that advertise the company itself. Will "show & tell" at our meeting in May.

I will start working on our elongated N.J. state quarter for our 30th anniversary. I have the quarters, prices etc. All members will receive one.



My Mind Was Full of Lincoln
Struck Bronze Medal
by Victor Brenner and Don Everhart

Honoring the Bicentennial of Lincoln's Birth and the Centennial of the Lincoln Cent, this bronze medal was created by two top America medallists:

Victor David Brenner, the original designer of the Lincoln Cent and Don Everhart, a current artist very active in the coin and medal field. This is the largest medal that Medallic Art Company could make from Brenner's original galvano design, and still required 12 strikes from a 1250 ton press. Measures 4 3/4" x 3 1/2" & weighs 19 oz. **\$229 + \$12.95 sh.**

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Lincoln Honored

Lincoln Portrait
Copper Galvano
by Salathiel Ellis



Salathiel Ellis designed many of the Presidential Peace Medals, and this portrait of Abraham Lincoln is the basis for the design of the Lincoln Peace Medal. This galvano is a collector's item for the Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial, made by the same technology — electrogalvanic casting — employed by the U.S. Mint in 1861 to make the die for Lincoln's portrait on the Indian Peace Medal Series. Starting with a stunningly detailed original plaster mold made by Ellis, the result is a high relief image electrolytically cast at Greco Industries for 3 weeks in Bethel, CT. This copper galvano is 7 1/2" by 6 1/4." **\$549 + \$15.95 sh.**

Signature Art Medals creates historically relevant and prestigious art, signed by the original artist.

Products Soon To Be Released



Inspiration of the Lincoln Cent
Lithograph
by Joel Iskowitz



Abraham Lincoln as a coin portrait concept is born during discussions between artist Victor D. Brenner and President Theodore Roosevelt, while the elder statesman sits for his portrait destined for the Panama Canal Service Medal. In this stunning portrayal by Joel Iskowitz, Brenner is framed by his famous Lincoln Plaque at his right elbow, and a photo of Lincoln over his left shoulder on this 25 1/4" x 32 1/2" lithograph on a very light cream colored heavy 120 lb. paper.

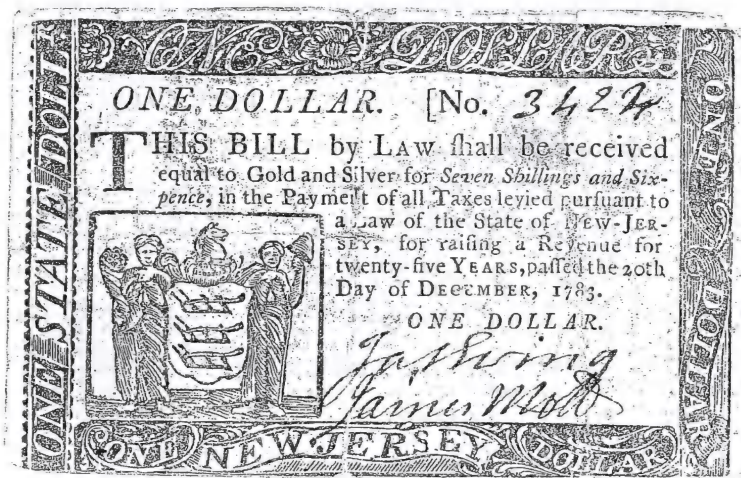
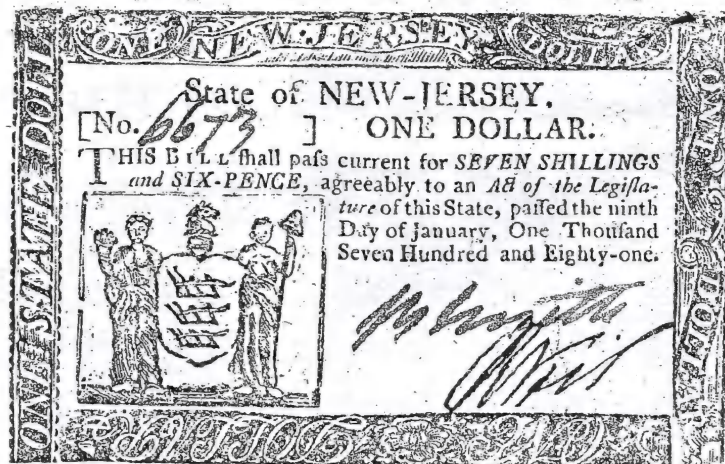
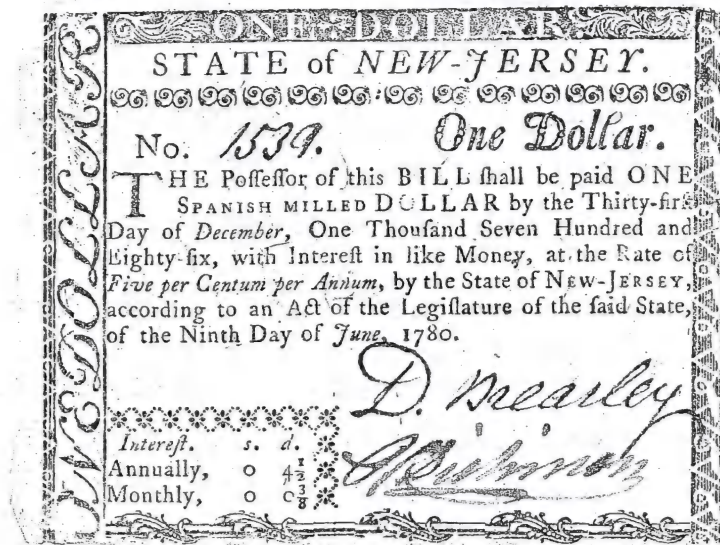


Cooper Union Address Sesquicentennial
Cast Bronze medal
by Don Everhart & Joel Iskowitz

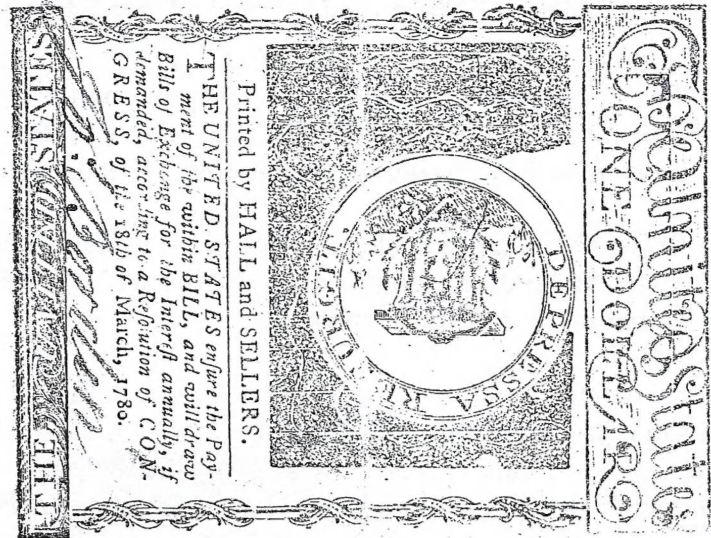
150th Anniversary Medal of the Cooper Union Address which helped propel Lincoln's Republican nomination for the Presidential election of 1860. Very large format medal approx. 7 1/2" by 4 1/2". To be released February 2010.

PAID AD

New Jersey's First Three Dollar Bills

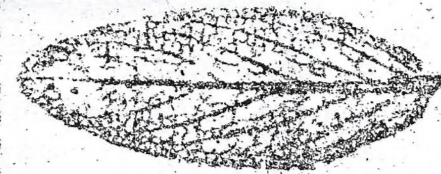


New Jersey's First Three Dollar Bills

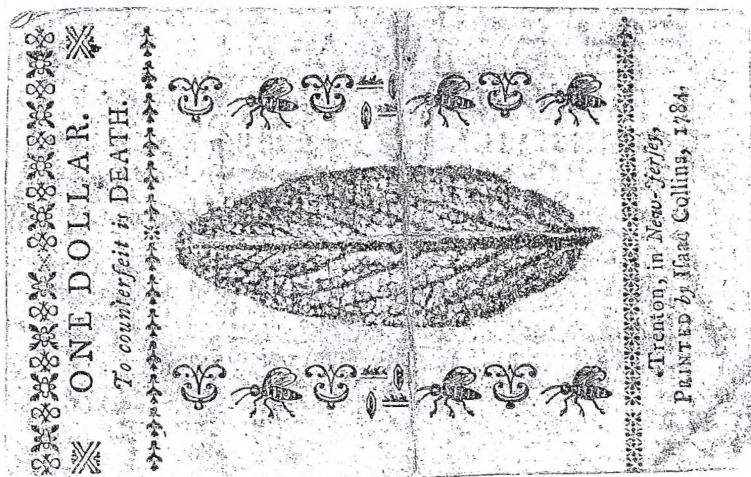


TO COUNTERFEIT IS DEATH.
Seven Shillings and Sixpence.

To counterfeit is Death.



TRENTON, in New-Jersey,
Printed by Isaac Collins, 1781.



NEWS ITEM

New Jersey Museum Promotes NJ Artists

CLOSTER, NJ – Question: Where should you find the work of New Jersey medallists, those artists who have created American coins and medals and lived in the state? Answer: The Belskie Museum in Closter New Jersey if curator of numismatics there, D. Wayne Johnson, has his way.

The Belskie Museum, founded in 1994 with the studio collection of sculptor-medallist **Abram Belskie** (1907-1988), holds the unique position of being located in the city whose sculptural roots go back to the beginning of the 20th century.

Closter was the base for world-renowned stone cutting studio of Robert A. Baillie. He cut many stone statues in mid-20th century by attracting some of the most famous American sculptors to come to his Closter studio for him to reproduce large public sculpture. Among those artists were Malvina Hoffman, James Earle Fraser, Anna Hyatt Huntington and Wheeler Williams.

He also hired some workmen who became famous as sculptors for their own creations. One of those was Abram Belskie who moved here in 1931 after immigrating to America from Scotland two years earlier. Belskie is famed for his medical models (used as training devices for medical students for their realistic shape, color and feel!). He thus became typecast as a medical medallist, ultimately to create the fifty-medal series of Great Men of Medicine, struck by Medallic Art Company.

Belskie's sculpture, medals and models are housed in the museum that bears his name. The museum was built by the Closter Lion's Club and deeded to the city. Operated by volunteers, it conducts art exhibitions throughout the year. A most recent one, September to November 2009, was on coins and medals. It not only featured the numismatic items created by Belskie, but also displayed a traveling exhibit of F.I.D.E.M. art medals, courtesy of the American Medallic Sculptors Association.

There were three famed medallic artists who lived in the Closter area. In addition to Belskie was **Marcel Jovine** (1921-2003), who took up medallic art somewhat late in life, but went on to create six U.S. commemorative coins and more than 150 medals. Jovine was born in Italy, was brought to America as a prisoner of war, sent back to Italy but returned to America to build a career as a sculptor, became famous as the inventor and creator of toys, particularly the *Visible Man* and *Visible Woman*. He rose to become president of the prestigious National Sculpture Society.

The third such Closter artist was **Joseph DiLorenzo** (1920-2001) who was the most productive of all New Jersey medalists, creating 366 medallic items in his lifetime. Curator Johnson has cataloged the work of all three medallists. It is no wonder he wants the medallic work of all three Closter artists to be housed in the Belskie Museum with a future exhibit of all three Closter medallists.

A pamphlet, *Abram Belskie Numismatics: The Art of Coins and Medals* was distributed at the Museum during the recent exhibition. It is also available from the author, along with a 50-page catalog list of all Belskie's medallic works. Send a dollar for the pamphlet or six dollars postage for both to Dick Johnson, 139 Thompson Drive, Torrington, CT 06790.

A pamphlet, Abram Belskie Numismatics: The Art of Coins and Medals is available from Dick Johnson for only \$1. If you collect medals it is well worth the price. If you are interested in the 50-page catalog list of all Belskie's medallic works you can get the two items for only \$6. Send to Dick Johnston, 139 Thompson Dr., Torrington, CT. 06790



ABRAM BELSKIE
(1907-1988)

NEW JERSEY EXONUMIA SOCIETY
17 Fourth St.
MANCHESTER, N.J. 08759



FIRST CLASS



**Matteo Rubba was born 1865 in Italy and emigrated to the U.S.
in 1894. The above token was used at his Grocery Store.**